

S P E E C H

DELIVERED BY

WILLIAM GARNETT, ESQ.,

AT

A PUBLIC DINNER,

TO WHICH HE WAS INVITED BY THE ELECTORS OF

SALFORD,

IN THE TOWN HALL,

On the 21st. of November, 1832.

FROM "WHEELERS' MANCHESTER CHRONICLE."

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TO THE ELECTORS.

Gentlemen,

HAVING received a requisition, most respectably and numerously signed, inviting me to offer myself as a candidate for the honour of representing your important interests in Parliament, I cheerfully waive all private objections, and at once accept the invitation of my fellow townsmen.

The settlement of the vital question of reform having calmed all political animosities, it will be the duty of your representative to use his best efforts to promote the accomplishment of those great national measures which must immediately attract the attention of the legislature. With respect to these, it becomes a candidate frankly to avow his principles.

With reference to the question of *Free Trade*, I think it will be the duty of Parliament to remove all obstructions, and by an enlightened policy on our part, to establish with foreign countries a commercial intercourse, founded upon just principles of reciprocity.

I am of opinion, that it will be advantageous to this Country, and especially to the industrious classes, who constitute its strength, that we should revise our unjust and impolitic system of *Corn Laws*, and that the trade in corn should be eventually unfettered.

After a careful consideration of the question of the East India Company's Monopoly, it appears to me of the highest importance, not only to this Country but also to our possessions in the East, that all commercial restrictions should be removed, and that British capital and skill should have free scope in that vast portion of the Empire. I consider the two-fold character of sovereign and merchant, now held by the Company, to be incompatible with the interests of the private merchant, and I am equally adverse to its exclusive enjoyment of the trade with China.

Connected, as I have been, with the commercial and manufacturing interests of the Country, my attention has been drawn to the system of banking, and to the proceedings in Parliament relative to the Charter of the Bank of England; and I am of opinion that that Company should no longer enjoy its exclusive monopoly.

It cannot be denied that, to give the industry of this Country its fair and legitimate protection, it is requisite that taxes on consumable commodities, and on the materials of manufacture, should be removed, and upon the principle of taxation which a wise Government would adopt, viz.—of apportioning the burthen according to the stake which each individual possesses, it is but reasonable that the fund-holder and man of property should sustain a greater share of that burden than they do at present.

The condition of Ireland demands the serious consideration of the Legislature, and calls for a permanent provision charged upon the property of that Country, for the support of its poor.

As a member of the Church of England, and anxious to promote its essential interests, I shall rejoice to see the question of *Tithes*, as between the clergy and laity, settled upon a principle of commutation, and, though I should resist every measure of spoliation. I am a sincere advocate for a more equal distribution of its revenue, in favour of the great body of the clergy.

The existence of slavery in our West India Colonies must be a source of regret to every humane mind; and gladly should I hail its speedy abolition, due regard being at the same time had to legitimate rights, and to the interests of the slaves themselves. I trust that the Government of this Country, will ere long, introduce into Parliament a measure calculated to promote this desirable object, to which, as your representative, I would give my most cordial support.

I have viewed with satisfaction the efforts made during late years to reduce the expenditure of our Government, and no one can be more desirous than myself of putting an end to all sinecures and unmerited pensions. Upon all occasions I would urge a rigid economy in every department of the State, and periodically require a distinct and intelligible account of the receipts and expenditure of the revenue.

Not doubting that his Majesty's Ministers have the good of their Country at heart, I should feel every disposition to give the most favorable attention to any measures which they may introduce into Parliament.

Having thus stated my opinions upon these great questions, it is with diffidence I allude to those personal qualifications which have, by my friends, been considered sufficient to justify them in requesting me to offer myself as a candidate. They are those habits and that knowledge of business which have been acquired during a commercial experience of upwards of thirty years, confirmed and extended by my connexion with the Manchester Chamber of Commerce since its formation.

Permit me now to add, that, should I receive at your hands the distinguished honor which I solicit, no effort shall be spared on my part to merit your confidence. I would zealously watch over your local interests, and promote, upon all occasions, such measures as may contribute to the prosperity of this great manufacturing district.

I have the honor to be, Gentlemen,

Your faithful and obedient Servant,

WM. GARNETT.

Lark Hill, 26th. June, 1832.

SPEECH, Etc.

MR. WILLIAM GARNETT was received with much enthusiasm. He spoke as follows:—Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,—If I have on former occasions when I have experienced the kindness of my fellow-townsmen in this room—if I have on those occasions felt embarrassed, I appeal to you now, when my character has been developed, in the language of the poet—

To my virtues very kind,
And to my faults a little blind. (*Applause.*)

I appeal to you, gentlemen, whether I may not be excused if I speak under some embarrassment—if I speak under much embarrassment on the present occasion. But, Sir, I am encouraged by the thought that it is the cause in which I am embarked. It is the cause, and not the individual, which stimulates me on this occasion. (*Loud applause.*) For what, gentlemen, is that cause? It is the cause of honor and public faith. It is the cause of religion and justice. It is the cause of attachment to those venerable and valuable institutions of our country which have raised this nation, amongst other surrounding nations of the earth, and made her the envy and the admiration of the world. (*Loud cheers.*) To speak more particularly to the object for which we are met—the Reform Bill—when we contemplate that great measure in our retired moments, it is natural, perhaps, to the human mind to recur to the field of Runnymede. It was there that the Barons of old jealous of the liberty of the British character, asserted it at the point of the sword. From this era by a natural transition we are brought to the period of the revolution of 1688. Here again was a manifestation of the attachment of Britons to liberty, and what had been first marked out in the great outline of Magna Charta was then shadowed forth; confirmed and extended in the Bill of Rights. Thence we are brought to the period in which we now live. The period of 1832 will be no less proudly referred to in English history than those which I have mentioned. But there is this great and memorable distinction to be made. It was not, sir, as at Runnymede that the liberty of Englishmen was asserted at the point of the sword. It was not, Sir, as at the revolution, when

the Bill of Rights was obtained for the acquisition of a crown. But it is that we now obtain this second charter of our liberties as the spontaneous act of a beloved king. (*Loud cheers.*) Sir, it has been said most unjustly that I have taken no part in the great question of reform. Sir, I have never advocated extreme opinions. I never will. (*Applause.*) But so far back as the year 1827, five years ago, when we had the prospect of the elective franchise then to be transferred from the decayed boroughs of Grampound and East Retford, I did on that occasion come forward at a meeting most numerous and respectably attended—perhaps the most so of any that ever took place in the town of Manchester. There I moved the second resolution, that it was most fit and proper that the great commercial towns of England should have representatives, and that Manchester and the circumjacent towns should have the privilege of sending two members to Parliament. (*Applause.*) Then, Sir, I come to the period of the first promulgation of the Reform Bill by Lord John Russell. I am accused of not having taken an active part upon that occasion; sir, I do not hesitate to say, that with the notions which I had entertained before that period, I was startled at the extent and magnitude of that measure. I am not one of those gentlemen, who jump to a conclusion at once. I am willing to take time to consider, to reflect, and to read what may be said by others, for the purpose of forming a sound opinion. (*Applause.*) But, Sir, when the measure was brought forward on the 7th. of March, when it had been debated in the House of Commons, and I had had an opportunity of which I availed myself to hear all that could be said for and against it, I did then, Sir, sign a petition from the town of Salford to the House of Lords praying that the bill might pass without any unnecessary delay. (*Loud cheers.*) Sir, it is well known that that bill was lost. But the one which has succeeded it, is equally efficient in its provisions, and equally entitled to my approbation. (*Loud cheering.*) Sir, if I were to speak of the electors of this borough I must say—and I have had the best opportunity of ascertaining it in my personal canvass—that a more respectable constituency cannot exist in the British dominions. (*Cheers.*) If I had formerly any doubt upon my mind upon this question, it was as to the £10 voters, but satisfied by the experience which I have had, I would as readily entrust my fortune or my life in the hands of this portion of the constituency as in the hands of any class of men in the world. (*Loud Cheers.*) Sir, notwithstanding all that my worthy friend your Chairman has said of me—much more than I deserve and much more than I have any pretensions to—it is well known to many gentlemen that I had no intention of offering myself as

a candidate for the representation of the borough of Salford. I felt conscious that you might find others more competent than myself, and I therefore—from a diffidence in my own ability to do justice to the representation of this borough, should not have offered myself had it not been for the very handsome requisition which was put into my hands. I embraced the offer which that requisition held out to me, and as I hope I shall always do, I did not shrink from what I conceived to be my duty. (*Applause.*) I was called upon immediately to put forth an address. In that address, gentlemen, are embodied my sentiments upon all great political questions. My opinions are there given a good deal in detail, and I stand here now to confirm them. (*Cheers.*) But when I say I confirm them, I wish to be understood that you must receive them as the opinions of an honest man. (*Loud Cheers.*) If I should succeed in this object of my ambition, it shall never be said of me within the walls of St. Stephens, here comes the delegate of Salford—here comes a man tied by the pledges he has given to his constituents for his political conduct; but I hope I may be able to say I come here a free and independent citizen, to exercise my judgment in giving my vote, keeping in view the good of my country as the polar star of my conduct. (*Loud cheers.*) Yes, Sir, there is one pledge I will give, freely and from my heart—I will pledge myself to this, that I will on all occasions give a conscientious vote. (*Cheers.*) Gentlemen, I fear I am taking up too much of your time. (*Hear and applause.*) I would beg to refer to that part of my address which refers to the Bank Charter. I gave my opinion that the company should no longer enjoy its exclusive monopoly. Gentlemen, the proceedings of the Bank up to the time at which I put forth that address were as a *terra incognita*. It was impossible to know what they were doing—nothing was communicated at their public meetings, although information was often asked for. Since that time there has been a large body of evidence published to the world, which had been communicated originally to a Secret Committee of the House of Commons. It is very voluminous, and amidst the variety of my engagements I have not had time to look it over with the attention I could wish. But this I will say, that so far as I have had an opportunity of ascertaining—I say it with great pleasure—it does confirm the opinion I gave in my address, that if it were proposed to continue the Bank upon the footing which then existed, I should give it my decided negative. It is very satisfactory that the opinion which I formed should be confirmed by evidence better than that which then was attainable. (*Applause.*) From that subject, gentlemen, I will advert to the principle of free trade. Sir, if we look to England as she

now stands, we behold a great commercial nation. If we look round us to other countries, we see the people of those countries anxious to follow in her steps, and we also find that each country has its peculiar advantages. The principle I would lay down is founded upon what I conceive to be the true principle of political economy—namely, that the country which can raise its agricultural produce at the lowest rate and transfer it to another, and be supplied with the results of manufacturing industry at a lower rate than it can supply itself—should adopt the principle by making an exchange which will be beneficial to both countries. (*Applause.*) Gentlemen, the history of the commerce of this country is of recent origin—when I speak of commerce I mean its important character—it may be said to have arisen so recently as the reign of George the Third. It is not a little remarkable that about the same period Watt perfected his steam engine. Not long afterwards Hargreaves, Crompton and Arkwright accomplished their improvements in the cotton manufacture. Those improvements have produced a great change in this country. It is a phenomenon in commercial history that the cotton trade has sprung up within the last fifty years to its present enormous magnitude. At this moment it is of more importance than all our other manufactures put together, and of the whole amount of our exports, two-thirds consist of cotton manufactures. (*Hear.*) In looking to the principle of free trade, we find that in our intercourse with France our commercial transactions have not averaged more than half a million per annum since the termination of the war. (*Hear.*) Now, I ask you whether by possibility a better system could not be established, which shall be beneficial to both countries. (*Loud cheers.*) My Right Hon. friend, Mr. Poulett Thomson, the Vice-President of the Board of Trade, gave a letter of introduction to me to an individual highly connected with that Board when in last August he visited this part of the country to make his enquiries with reference to the great manufacture of which I was speaking—and I was most happy to hear that there was on foot a negotiation between these two great countries, (which are so well calculated to assist each other) founded in a sincere desire to promote a more free and more liberal commercial intercourse than had hitherto existed between them. (*Applause.*) My next subject is the Corn Laws, connected as that question undoubtedly is with the commercial interests of this nation. In considering the subject we must look to the period when the trade in corn was allowed to be free—to the period of 1773. Prior to that time the importation of corn was subject to partial restrictions, and was often made subservient to the revenue; but in that year a better system prevailed, and from that time to 1815 the importation of corn was free—that is to say, subject to certain

duties, but inasmuch as the duty was only sixpence per quarter fixed at a low price, a price than which the market generally ruled higher, it may be considered as having been perfectly free. Now I ask whether up to the year 1815 the agriculturists themselves were not in a more flourishing condition than they have been under the system of restrictions which have been since acted upon. I therefore advocate a freer intercourse with neighbouring nations in this great commodity, not merely because it will benefit the commerce of the country only, but that through commerce it will serve the interests of the agriculturists themselves, and I hold it to be morally impossible that country gentlemen looking to the question partially, merely considering it with reference to the objects around them, can be alive to the matter in all its bearings so entirely as the merchant, who has seen its working on a more extended scale, and how injuriously it operates on the community at large. (*Applause.*) Gentlemen, I do not wish to excite an unpleasant feeling, but I cannot help saying that under a reformed Parliament the Corn Bill would never have passed. (*Applause.*) I do think that upon a matter so important in its operation the wishes of the country ought to have been attended to, and in point of fact there probably never was a question mooted in the House of Commons against which so many petitions were brought forward as the prohibitory law of 1815. I do hope therefore that under a reformed Parliament this will engage the serious attention of the Legislature, with a view to a better state of things. (*Applause.*) I may here state, gentlemen, as a very valuable fact, that before the reform of Parliament took place there were not more than seven or eight members in the House who were connected with the manufacturing interests of the Country. (*Hear.*) Now if we consider for a moment what the manufacturing interests have become—that in fact they are now the pivot on which the prosperity of the Country hinges, we cannot hesitate for a moment in forming a conclusion whether it be reasonable that we should still go on in the old way or whether we should henceforth have these great interests represented by efficient men. (*Applause.*) Unfortunately the corn question has been made one of party. Political demagogues represent the great injury which the Corn Bill has been doing continually to the working classes, and true I admit that it is an injury, but it is an injury inasmuch as it cramps commerce. I shall not now give my opinion as to the effect upon the prices of corn if a free importation existed; but this I will venture to say, that the artizan who is engaged in the manufactures of the Country will be better paid, will receive more wages for his time, and will be enabled to pay higher prices with more comfort than he can now pay the present prices. (*Applause.*) Sir, I must be allowed to dwell a moment

or two upon this subject, because it refers particularly to the working classes. The condition of the working classes is an excellent barometer of the prosperity of the Country. (*Hear.*) If the working classes be contented—if they are satisfied—if they are receiving a fair remuneration for their time and their labour, we may take it for granted that all is going well. If, on the other hand, they have reason to complain that they are not adequately paid, whatever may be the statements in the House of Commons as to the amount of our exports or imports we need only look to the condition of the working classes and say whether the country is in a prosperous state. (*Applause.*) It is therefore *ceteris paribus* of primary importance that we look always to the welfare of the working classes. By opening new markets we widen the field of industry. (*Applause.*) When it is not in our power to do this by negotiation we must bend to circumstances—we must set a good example ourselves with the expectation that it will be followed by other nations. But I come now to a subject which is under our own control—I allude to the East Indies. (*Applause.*) Gentlemen, the India trade has been open to the extent which it now exists, since the year 1814. We were then told that it would be of no avail—that the people were very peculiar in their character—that they were mere rice-eaters—no consumers of manufactures, and in short, that it was absolutely necessary that the Country should be protected against the inundations that would be poured in from India, especially of cotton fabrics. Such were the statements of those opposed to the opening of the trade in 1814; but what has been the fact? Whilst the commercial transactions of the East India Company have been reduced to half the amount they were in 1814, and amounted to only half a million in the year 1829, (the last date to which the accounts reached) the private trade had increased in a ratio almost inconceivable. (*Hear.*) The private trade had extended to the value of £ 1,600,000, and the quantity of yards of cotton cloth exported in the year 1828 was fifty-two millions, whilst the cotton yarns exported in 1814 had only been to the amount of eight pounds weight, they had now increased to five millions of pounds. Gentlemen, if our commerce be extended in this extraordinary manner whilst we are only allowed as it were to approach the threshold of the country, whilst we are only allowed to communicate with the ports, and whilst we are prevented from having any establishments in the interior of the country, what may we not expect under a better system. It appears by a Report made to a Committee of the House of Commons by the East India Company, that there were in 1828 only 2016 Europeans resident in Hindoostan, independent of the East India Company and the King's service. When I say, therefore, we have attained these great results without

any commercial establishments in the interior, and with a population of 2000 Europeans, what may not reasonably be expected when we are allowed free scope, when we are permitted to hold lands — and freely to embark our capital and industry in the commerce of a Country whose importance and resources have yet to be developed. (*Applause.*) Gentlemen, whilst I am on this subject, I cannot deny myself the satisfaction of adverting also to the great advantages in a moral and religious point of view which will attend a free communication of Europeans with the interior of India. Who will not admit that Great Britain may be one of the appointed means to restore from heathenish darkness, in which the great population of the East are enveloped, to the blessings and enjoyments of christianity. (*Applause.*) The views which I have expressed at a public meeting with respect to the trade with China I still entertain. I do not consider the advantages to be derived from our intercourse with China are to be put in comparison with those which would result from a free intercourse with Hindoostan. In the one case we have to communicate with our own fellow-subjects; in the other we are limited to one spot, to a few acres of ground, with the most jealous watching over our proceedings, and a determination that we shall not mix with the people, and we are constrained to traffic with a few individuals only. I do contend, therefore, that we cannot expect the same advantages to accrue in the former as in the latter case. Nevertheless, upon the broad principle of right and wrong, I say it is not to be borne that we should be excluded from this branch of commerce. It is a most anomalous and extraordinary fact, that under the present system foreigners can come into our own ports, — an American vessel, for instance, may come to the Thames or the Mersey — take a cargo of goods from this country to China — dispose of them and bring back her return to what place she pleases, whilst a British subject cannot do the like. (*Hear and applause.*) This is an evil which cannot be tolerated for a moment — nay, I will go further, and say that most decidedly the British Public have a right to participate in the trade with China. (*Applause.*) Gentlemen, I must next allude to the never-ending subject of taxation. The principle of taxation that I would wish to see adopted by an administration, and by the Legislature, is that which would apportion contribution to the value of the stake which each individual has in the country. (*Applause.*) In all cases in which it can be done, I would lighten the burden of taxation upon articles of consumption. I would spare the working-class as much as possible, for they are the busy bees of the Country, and from their labor their superiors are enabled to enjoy the fruits of their industry. (*Applause.*) Gentlemen, whilst I say this I would measure taxation upon

property. (*Cheers.*) For what is property? It is, as in my own instance, the realizations of industry. (*Hear, and cheers.*) All property must have been generated, in one way or other, by industry. In the progress of its accomplishment, then, I would spare it—when accomplished it is a fit object of taxation, for in the enjoyment of it men ought to take their full share, which at present they do not, towards the exigencies of the State. (*Loud applause.*) In reference to this branch of my subject, I would more particularly speak of the national debt. And is it right, I would ask, that that which is a protected property in the State should contribute not a farthing to its necessities? But with regard to its existence, which I deplore, am I a man to say that the principles advocated by itinerant politicians should be entertained by me for a moment. Am I to encourage a violation of the national faith? God forbid! (*Loud cheers.*) Of the two hundred and eighty or ninety thousand bondholders there are many who are widows and orphans, and I say, gentlemen, at once, that rather than lend a hand to their injury—rather than aid in the extinction of that debt upon any principle but that of honesty, I would quit the House of Commons for ever, if I were in it. (*Loud applause.*) But whilst I thus express myself, gentlemen, there is one mode of alleviating this burden which I would certainly require—that there shall be a complete abolition of all useless places, sinecures and pensions. (*Applause.*) And more than this I would require that there shall be a clear and intelligible account laid upon the table of the House of Commons, drawn out in such a way that he who runs may read, and not one of those garbled statements which in three or four lines professes to tell us the whole pecuniary transactions of the Empire. (*Applause.*) Such is not the way in which I have been accustomed to keep my accounts. (*Applause.*) I do not see that it makes any difference whether the account be one of a steward with the nobleman—the merchant with his fellow-merchant—or whether it be the account of a Government with the subjects of that Government. In a matter of account it is the same, every thing should be clear and intelligible. (*Cheers.*) I now come to a subject which I approach with great timidity, because engaged as I have been all my lifetime in commercial transactions, it may be supposed, and reasonably, by those who are my friends, that I am speaking upon a subject which I do not understand, and which I had better let alone—I mean the Church. (*Applause.*) But, Sir, I was born and educated in that Church. I have admired its doctrines—I have admired its tolerant spirit—and, as a true friend to that Church, I wish to see it more in the affections of the people. (*Loud cheers.*) I am glad to observe, that many distinguished men have taken up the question, and I do hope that they will approach it with the same feel-

ings that I enter upon it, and that every salutary change will be adopted to effect that result which I have expressed my desire to see accomplished. (*Applause.*) But here as in the case of the national debt, I stand up, Sir, against spoliation. (*Applause.*) The revenues of the Church are the property of the Church, and although a better distribution may be made, yet I hold that it cannot be wrested from the Church without infringing that great principle—the sacredness of property. (*Applause.*) With regard to the question of tithes, I confess I have been astonished how much has been said—and, in my opinion, how little to the purpose. It has been bandied about, Sir, from one political character to another, that tithes should be abolished, and that if they were so abolished the Country would have the benefit. Sir, I know from experience that if tithes were abolished to-morrow the landlord would receive from the tenant the value of tithe as hitherto paid to the clergyman. (*Applause.*) But, Sir, it comes within my own experience that tithes may be commuted for a valuable consideration which shall prevent that collision which upon occasions unhappily arises between the pastor and his flock. (*Applause.*) I hold in my own possession a property subject to tithe in this county. It has been commuted and was settled by Act of Parliament in 1824. The tenants are perfectly satisfied and so am I. Improvements go on without reference to the amount of tithe, which remains the same, subject to any change that may arise in the price of wheat realising above 90s. a quarter for the space of three consecutive years. The probability is that there will be no change for a century to come, but there was this provision because we find from history that where a commutation has been received in money and not in kind the Church suffers, and therefore with reference to the continual fluctuation in the value of money, it has been wisely provided that when the money rent obtained for the produce of the land for three consecutive years is increased, a new valuation should be made. I do not say that this is the only way in which the commutation should be made, but upon principle and principle alone, I am an advocate for the commutation of tithes upon a fair and equitable basis. (*Applause.*) And now sir, I approach a subject which interests me more nearly than I can express. It is the question of slavery. Gentlemen, I abhor slavery, and I abhor oppression in any shape or form. It is revolting to see so many of our fellow-creatures in the British dominions groaning under oppression, and subject to the castigation or caprice of their fellow-men. *I am ready to say that this is a state of things that should no longer exist than is consistent with a due regard to the safety of the colonies and the welfare of the slaves themselves.** (*Cheers.*) I would most zealously attend to

* This part of Mr. Garnett's speech does not accord with the opinion he has given on several occasions. What he

any information on the subject, because I confess that it has not so much as others fallen in my way to receive information, having had less commercial intercourse—and during the last five-and-twenty years none—with the West India isles, and having no possession or dependency in that quarter of the globe. I am therefore most anxious to inform myself of the real state of this question. I rejoice to see that the sentiments of the existing Administration are in accordance with the wishes of a great portion of the Public—that *slavery shall be abolished.* (*Applause.*) Two Committees are now sitting, appointed in the last session of Parliament, to obtain information upon this vital subject of slavery. I know the warm advocates of abolition say that this is only done for the purposes of delay. Sir, I think this is hardly fair. I would not delay the emancipation of the slave if I were satisfied that the moment was arrived when this could be done with advantage to him. (*Applause.*) One great fact has certainly appeared to me in the course of my reading, and of the attention which I have given this topic. It is a most important fact, and affects the whole question. It appears in the *Despatch* of Lord Goderich of the 13th. May, that in the Crown Colonies the free negroes are engaged in the fortification of Berbice, and that they are as zealous labourers for their own advantage as any free men to be found in Europe. I rejoice at this above all things, because I think it is the very touch-stone of the question. (*Applause.*) Then, Sir, in regard to compensation, I say that it is a question which must rest upon its own merits. The planters have certainly formed a kind of property of slaves, inasmuch as sales have been made and recognized in our Courts of Justice. Slavery has existed for ages, and if, therefore, the planter be injured by its abolition—which, *mark me, is very questionable*—it will be the bounden duty of the Country to see that he is compensated. (*Applause.*)—I believe these are all the great points which I have thought it my duty—standing before you as a candidate for your suffrages—to advert to upon this occasion. But I cannot conclude these remarks without also referring to the manner in which this contest has been carried on. (*Hear, hear, and loud Applause.*) Sir, having entered the arena, I am willing to break a lance with my opponent, but I would wish to do it as a gentleman. (*Loud Cheers.*) Sir I need scarcely state that after my appearance in the field I was vilified, reprobated, and scandalized, in a manner which I confess I did not consider within the bound of

meant to say was this—"I am ready to say that this is a state of things which should no longer exist. There should be an immediate substitution of judicial for private and irresponsible authority; and with regard to slavery itself, it should no longer exist than is consistent with a due regard to the safety of the Colonies and the welfare of the slaves themselves."—EDITOR.

human nature; of the placards that have been upon the walls, and the respective writers of each of them, I would merely then say that I despised them and pitied their authors. (*Loud cheers.*) With regard to myself I shall be very brief. It is for you to determine, and not for me to be the judge of my fitness. My friend has said more of me than I deserve—but if habits of business and unremitting attention, which I pledge myself to devote to your service, are worthy of your acceptance, I offer them most freely. I have leisure, having retired from commercial life. When I consider the great questions which will be brought before the next Parliament, I confess that it would be a satisfaction to me to lend a helping hand to meet the wishes of the country. I should then hope that I had not passed my life in vain. (*Loud Applause.*) I need not tell you, Gentlemen, how I shall prize this honor, should it be conferred. Salford is the first borough of its class in England. There is not one of the same importance which does not send two members to Parliament; and, Gentlemen, it will be a gratification to me to represent that town in which I have lived and prospered, and in which I hope to pass the remainder of my days. (*Applause.*) When I see around me so many friends—when I reflect upon the kind manner in which I was received upon my personal canvass, it would betray a craven and a recreant heart to doubt of success. (*Loud cheers.*) But, gentlemen, whatever may be the issue of the contest, I shall ever remain indebted to you, and more particularly to my Committee, to whom individually and collectively I take this opportunity of publicly expressing my thanks for the personal sacrifices they have made in my behalf, and of wishing them every possible happiness.—At the close of this address, the company rose simultaneously and gave three times three cheers, and one cheer more to Mr. Garnett. That gentleman again rose to propose the health of the Chairman. He adverted to the diffidence which he had evinced in taking the chair, and said that when they found that feeling strongest they also generally found the greatest merit. The toast was most flatteringly received. Three times three cheers, with “one cheer more” succeeded the bumper.